

whatever is necessary to win the war. We owe it to every soldier in the American military to make sure they've got the best pay, best equipment, best possible training. We owe it to the families of the military to make sure that they're as well protected as possible. So our expenditures went up because of the emergency in war and revenues went down. That's the ingredients for what they call a deficit.

And there's two ways to deal with that deficit, in my judgment. One is to hold the line on spending. I submitted a bill to the—I submitted a budget to the United States Congress which holds the discretionary spending to 4 percent. That's a reasonable level. We, of course, will work with Congress to make sure they stick to that budget—control spending on the one hand, and on the other hand, in order to get rid of the deficit, you boost revenues coming into the Treasury by encouraging economic growth and vitality.

I'm concerned about the deficit but not as concerned about the deficit as I am about people trying to find work. I'm more worried about the person looking for work. And therefore, we've got a plan that is robust and strong, that encourages economic vitality and growth, so our fellow citizen can get to work and get to work soon.

You all can make a difference in this debate. Not only the people present in this room can make a difference, but people who are listening across the country can make a difference. That's why they've got e-mails—[laughter]—or telephones or in some cases, buses. People on the Hill are responsive to the voice of their fellow citizens.

So thanks for coming, to be a part of a process that distinguishes—that really distinguishes us in many ways from many parts of the world, a process in which the citizen can make a difference, part of the process that says democracy is by far the fairest way for people to live. And that's what we believe.

We believe strongly in certain principles. We believe in the dignity of every single human being. That's why we want to make sure—that's why we care when we hear somebody can't find a work. That's why we grieve when a fellow citizen who wants to work can't find a job, and that's why we've put policies out there that promote growth

and economic vitality. But we not only believe in the dignity of every American; we believe in the dignity of every person. See, we believe that freedom is the Almighty God's gift to each and every person on this—who lives on this globe. That's what we believe.

You're representing the best of a free society. The willingness to speak out really does speak to the great freedoms of America, and we hold those freedoms dear. We believe in freedom not only for our own people, but we believe in freedom for those who are enslaved. We believe so strongly in freedom that we're willing sometimes to take risk for not only our own freedoms but the freedoms of others. That's the great thing about our country. We're a strong country. We're a confident country, but we're also a compassionate country that believes in values and principles that will endure the test of time.

Thank you for coming to Washington to exercise your freedom. May God bless you all, and may God bless America.

NOTE: The President spoke at 10:31 a.m. in the Hall of Flags at the U.S. Chamber of Commerce. In his remarks, he referred to Luke and Daniel Brindley, owners, Jammin' Java; and former President Saddam Hussein of Iraq. The Office of the Press Secretary also released a Spanish language transcript of these remarks.

Remarks Following a Meeting With Secretary of Defense Donald H. Rumsfeld and an Exchange With Reporters

May 6, 2003

Appointment of L. Paul Bremer III as Presidential Envoy to Iraq

The President. Today it's my honor to announce that Jerry Bremer has agreed to become the Presidential Envoy to Iraq. In selecting Jerry Bremer, our country will be sending one of our best citizens. He's a man of enormous experience, a person who knows how to get things done. He's a can-do type person. He shares the same values as the American—most Americans share, and that is our deep desire to have an orderly country in Iraq that is free and at peace, where the

average citizen has a chance to achieve his or her dreams.

The Ambassador goes with the full blessings of this administration and the full confidence of all of us in this administration that he can get the job done.

So, Mr. Ambassador, thanks for taking this on. I'm proud of you, and I appreciate so very much you're willing to sacrifice not only on behalf of our country but on behalf of the people of Iraq who deserve a free and democratic society. Good luck to you.

Ambassador Bremer. Thank you, Mr. President.

The President. I'll answer some questions.

Yes.

Resignation of OMB Director Mitch Daniels

Q. Mr. President, how did Mitch Daniels explain his resignation today? And does that departure affect your prospects for a tax package on the Hill?

The President. Mitch told me that he wants to go back home to the State of Indiana and perhaps pursue a run for political office. I told him, I said, "Mitch, we're going to miss you a lot in this administration." He has served us well. He has been a really good watchdog of the taxpayers' money. And you know, I'm going to miss him. On the other hand, this administration's loss is the gain of the people of Indiana.

And we're going to get a tax package through because it's the right thing to do, and I hope Congress acts decisively and boldly. I put up a package that will increase the number of new jobs by a million folks at the end of 2004. And I expect them to understand, there's a lot of people looking for work, and the burden is on them right now. And we're going to send a lot of people up there from around the country, and we'll be sending our own folks here in the administration to work with Members of the Congress to remind them that the size of the tax package will depend on them, and the bigger the package, the more likely it is that people are going to find a job here.

Randy [Randall Mikkelsen, Reuters].

Q. Mr. President, following up briefly on Scott's [Scott Lindlaw, Associated Press]

question, will fiscal discipline be as high on the qualification list for Mitch Daniels' successor as it was when he entered office?

The President. First of all, fiscal discipline was high on my agenda. And therefore, anybody that works for me will place a premium on fiscal discipline. It turns out that the—that appropriators love to appropriate here in Washington. Given a pot of money, they will appropriate it, unless there's an administration willing to fight on behalf of the taxpayers. This administration is willing to fight on behalf of the taxpayers. We will insist upon fiscal discipline here in Washington, DC.

Angle [Jim Angle, FOX News].

Iraqi Weapons Lab

Q. Mr. President, Defense officials are now saying they are confident they have found a mobile biological lab, exactly what Secretary Powell described before the United Nations. Are you aware of the details? What can you tell us about that? And has Secretary Rumsfeld given you any details?

The President. I'm not surprised if we begin to uncover the weapons program of Saddam Hussein because he had a weapons program. I will leave the details of your question to the experts, but one thing we know is that he had a weapons program. We also know he spent years trying to hide the weapons program. And over time, the truth will come out and the American people will see that when we rid Saddam Hussein from—got him out of power, we made America more secure.

NOTE: The President spoke at 1:19 p.m. in the Oval Office at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to former President Saddam Hussein of Iraq. The Office of the Press Secretary also released a Spanish language transcript of these remarks.

Remarks at a Signing Ceremony for the United States-Singapore Free Trade Agreement

May 6, 2003

President Bush. Thank you. Good afternoon, and welcome to the White House. I'm honored to host Prime Minister Goh as we